Scientific Bases for the Development of the NAAQS for Ozone

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The Clean Air Act specifies that the US EPA must periodically review the scientific bases (or "criteria") for setting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Assessments of the extent of all exposure-related effects on public health and welfare for the six major pollutants (ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead) for which there are NAAQS are published in Air Quality Criteria Documents (AQCD). These scientific assessments are conducted by the EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). The AQCD containing the assessment for ozone and other photochemical oxidants has just been recently finalized and released. This document contains current information on atmospheric chemistry, exposure assessment, dosimetry, toxicology, epidemiology, and ecology. The scientific findings in the AQCD will provide major scientific bases for EPA's decision to retain or revise the NAAQS for ozone, in conjunction with other assessments (e.g., air quality, exposure, and risk assessments) prepared by the Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The AQCD is reviewed by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and the public. In addition to their use in the NAAQS review process, the ozone AQCD and associated assessments provide guidance for air quality managers, serve as a resource for states and international programs setting air quality standards and/or guidelines, and serve as a primary reference for the international research community. Major new conclusions regarding ozone are summarized in this poster.

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